

L.H. Van Brakle

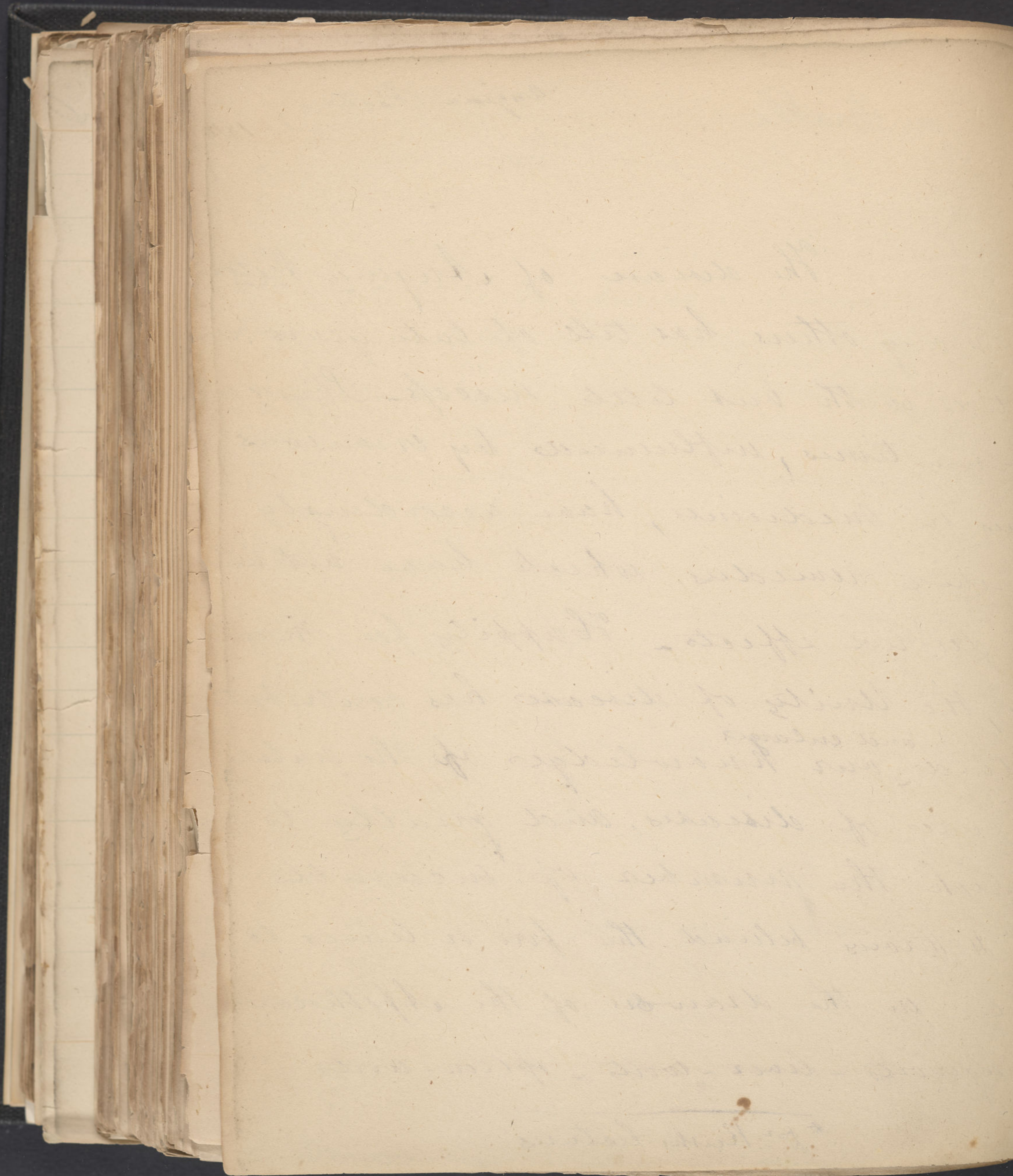
Angina Pectoris #12

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The disease of Angina Pectoris like many others, has till of late years been treated with but little success - Physicians of former times, influenced by erroneous theories in medicine, have accordingly prescribed remedies, which have not had their desired effects - Happily for mankind, the Unity of disease has contributed to extend ^{and enlarge} our knowledge of the nature and cure of diseases, and greatly to diminish the number of incurable ones* - It throws behind the fire or leaves to moulder in the drawers of the Apothecaries the lungworts - liver-worts, spleen-worts -

* Dr. Rush's lectures.

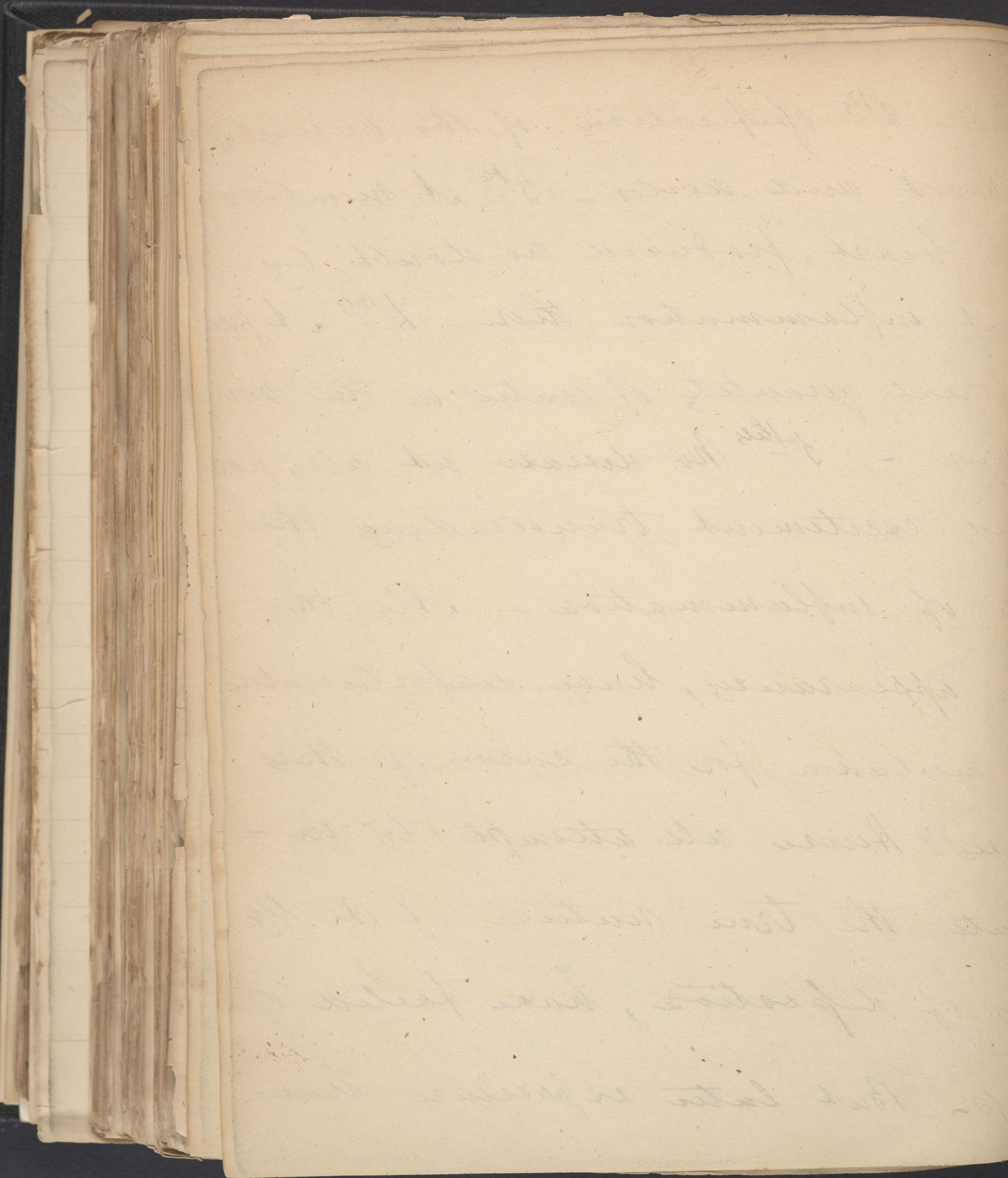


worm-worts, and brain-worts. of the old school
and substitute for them a select number
of active medicines; to be given in different
doses, in different preparations, and at
different times in all diseases -

In the following essay I propose to treat
of the nature & symptoms of this terrible
disease viz Angina Pectoris - and the mode
of treatment which has been found most
successful; and first of all I will premise
a few remarks -

1st - The seat of this disease appears to
be in the heart - I infer this from
dissections; which have exhibited a
great variety of appearances - 1st An
unusual quantity of fat about the

heart - 2^{ds} opification of the valves of
 the heart and aorta - 3^{ds} A membrane
 in the heart, produced no doubt, by
 violent inflammation there - 4th A pro-
 ternatural quantity of water in the peri-
 cardium - 5th No disease at all; from
 morbid excitement transcending the
 grade of inflammation - All the
 above appearances, have unfortunately
 been mistaken for the cause of this
 disease - Hence all attempts to in-
 vestigate the true nature of it by
 means of dissection, have failed of
 success. But later experience have



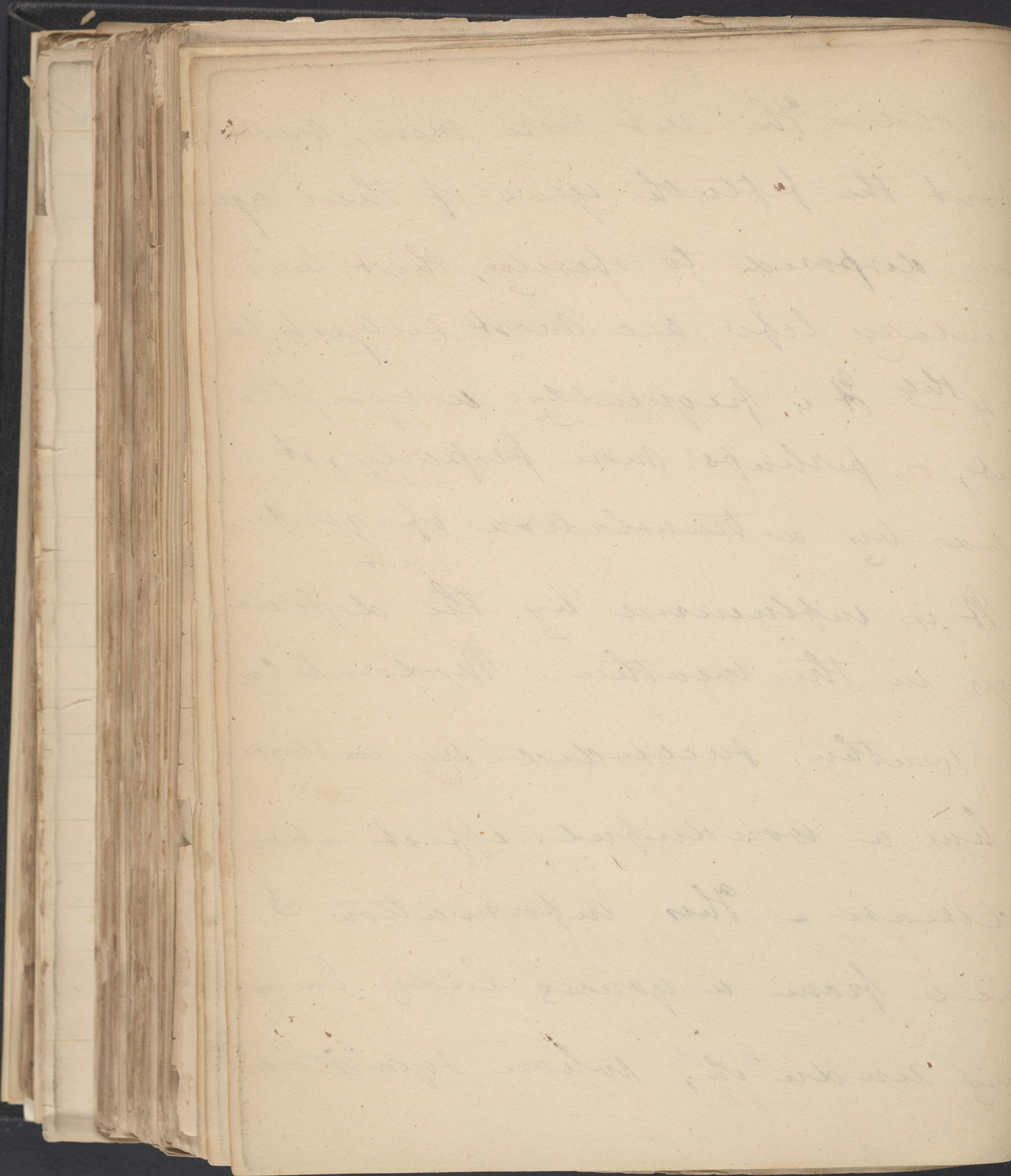
4th

proved them to be the effects, not
the cause of morbid excitement, or in
other words, disease —

2nd This disease frequently alternates
with hydrothorax, from which it may
be distinguished by its attacking mostly
hypochondriacal and hysterical
persons, by not being constant, and
attended with no affection of the
head — 3rd It attacks men more

frequently than women — But of
a hundred persons, Dr Heberden tells us,
labouring under the disease, there
were women and one a boy of twelve

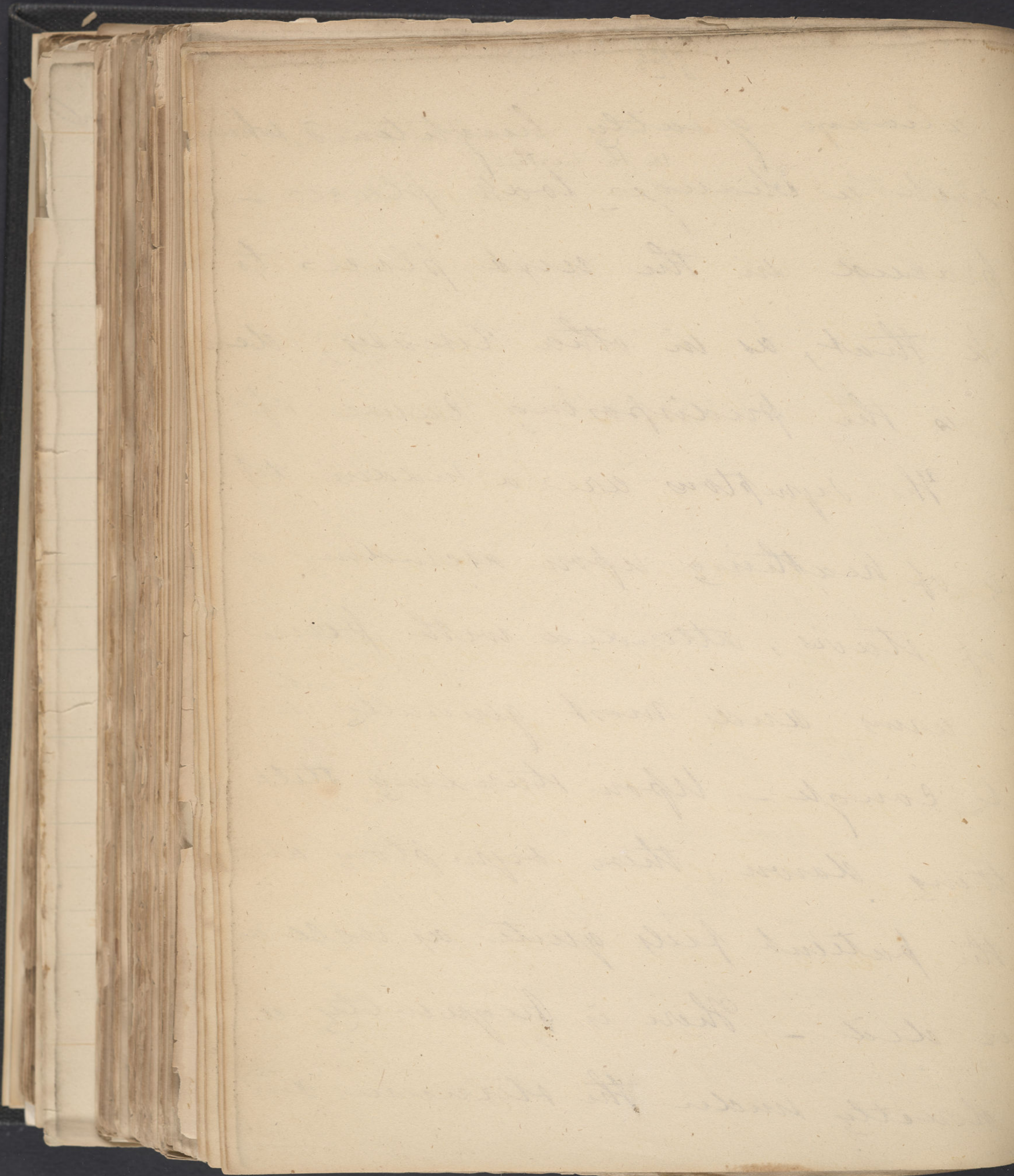
5-
years old - The rest were men, near
or about the fiftieth year of their ages.
Persons disposed to obesity, that lead
a sedentary life are most subject to
it. 4^{thly} It is frequently a symptom
of gout, or perhaps more properly, it is
produced by a translocation of gout.
5^{thly} It is influenced by the different
changes in the weather - Moderately
warm weather, succeeded by intense
cold has a wonderful effect upon
this disease - This information I
received from a young lady, la-
bouring under it; whose symptoms



were always greatly heightened, whenever such a change ^{in the weather} took place -

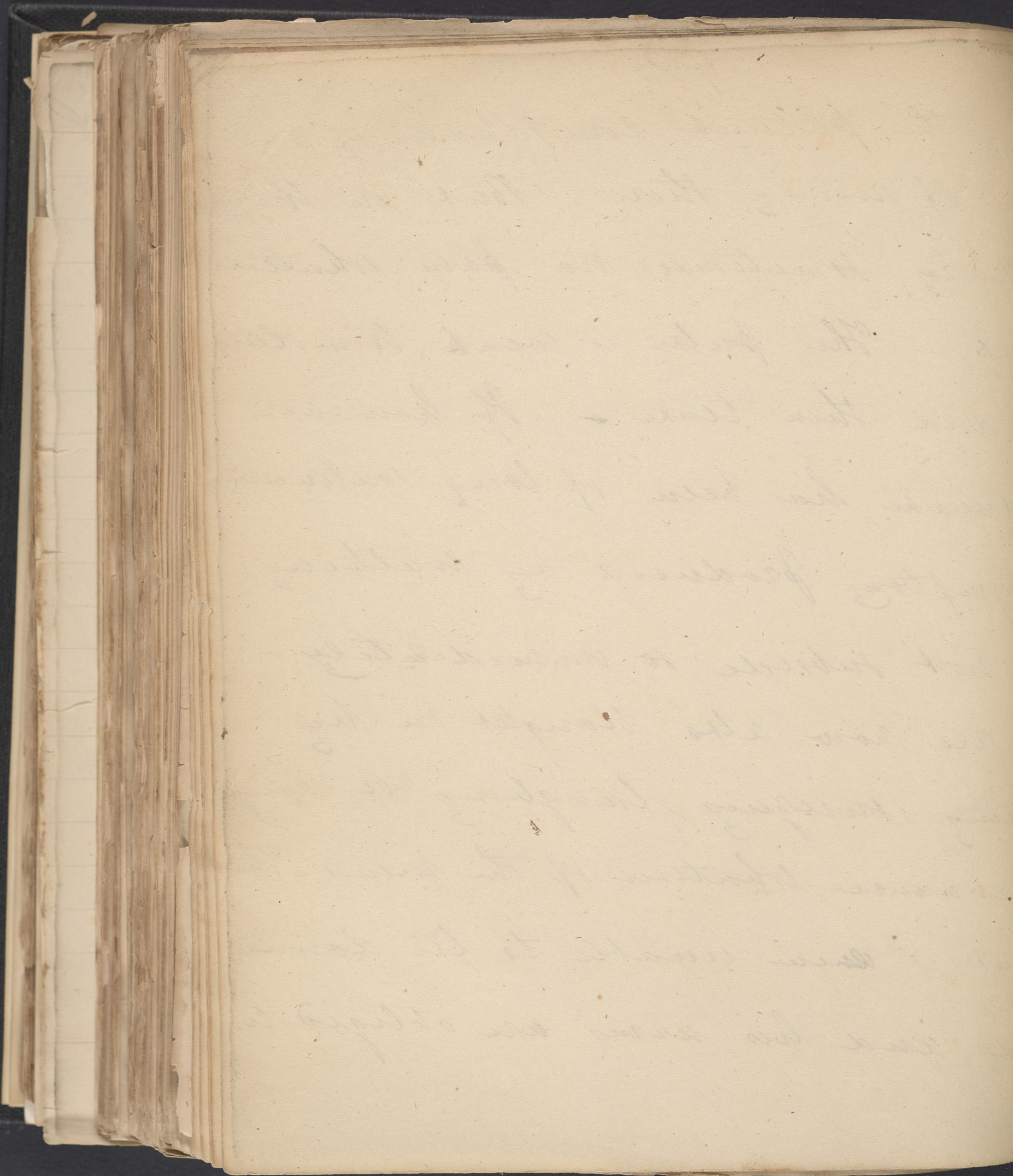
I proceed in the next place to remark that, as in other diseases, debility is the predisposing cause of this - The symptoms are a sudden diff-

iculty of breathing upon ascending a pair of stairs, attended with pain in the arms and most generally, ^{with} a violent cough - Upon standing still or sitting down, these symptoms abate, and the patient feels quite as well as he ever did - There is frequently a pain directly under the sternum and



if they

and the patient complains of a
sense of rising there. But on the
contrary sometimes no pain whatever
occurs. The pulse is weak, trembling
now and then tense. If however
the disease has been of long continuance
the symptoms produced by walking
will not subside so immediately -
they are now also brought on by
coughing, sneezing, laughing or any
disturbance whatever of the mind. The
patient is even unable to lie down
in bed and his arms are obliged to



be held up - ^{8th} The fits most generally
come on in two or three weeks, the
intervals however are shorter -

They generally occur at night, from
the system being at that time in
a debilitated ^{state}, consequently most pre-
disposed - These are the most

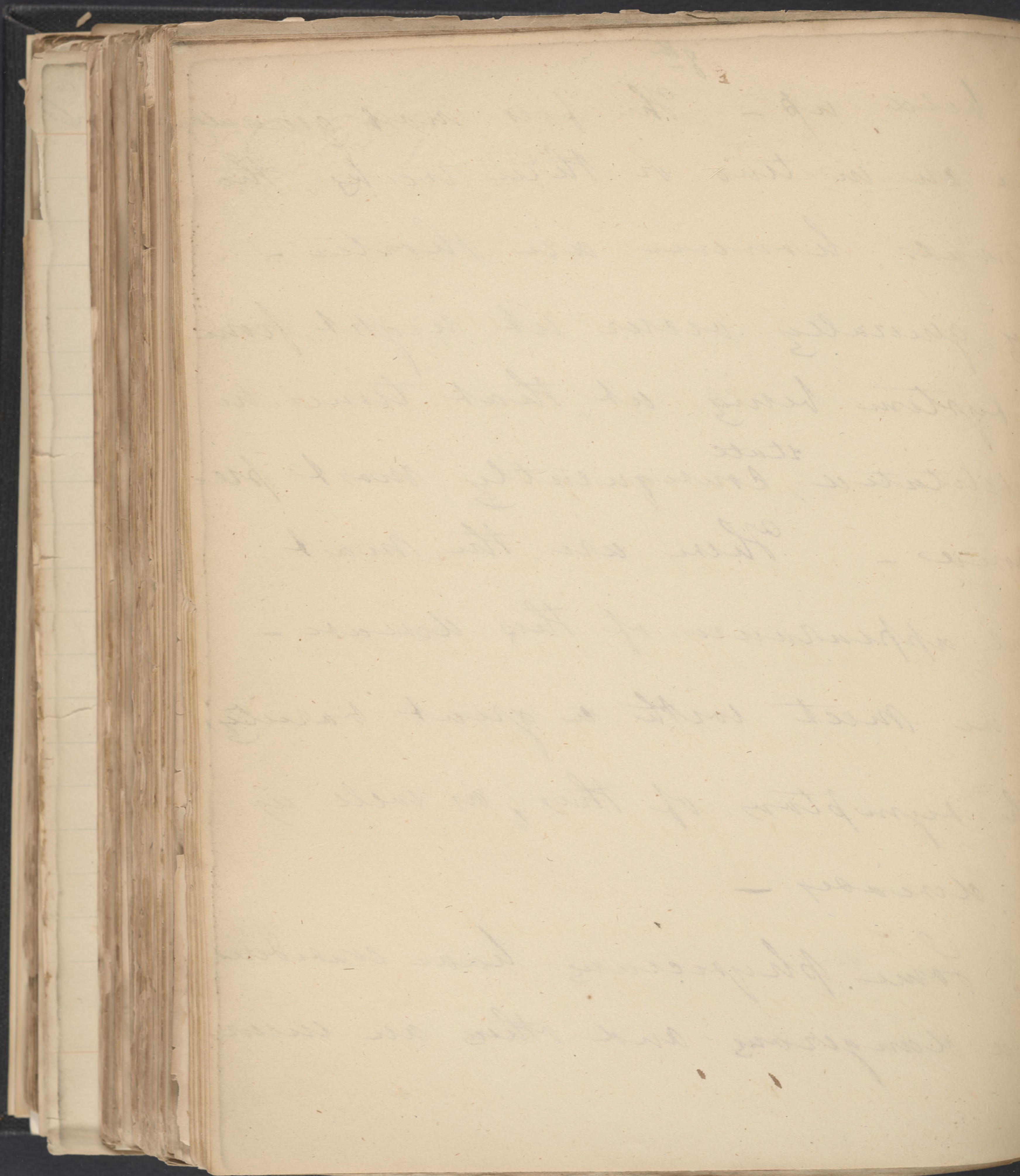
usual appearances of this disease -

But we meet with a great variety,

in the symptoms of this, as well as

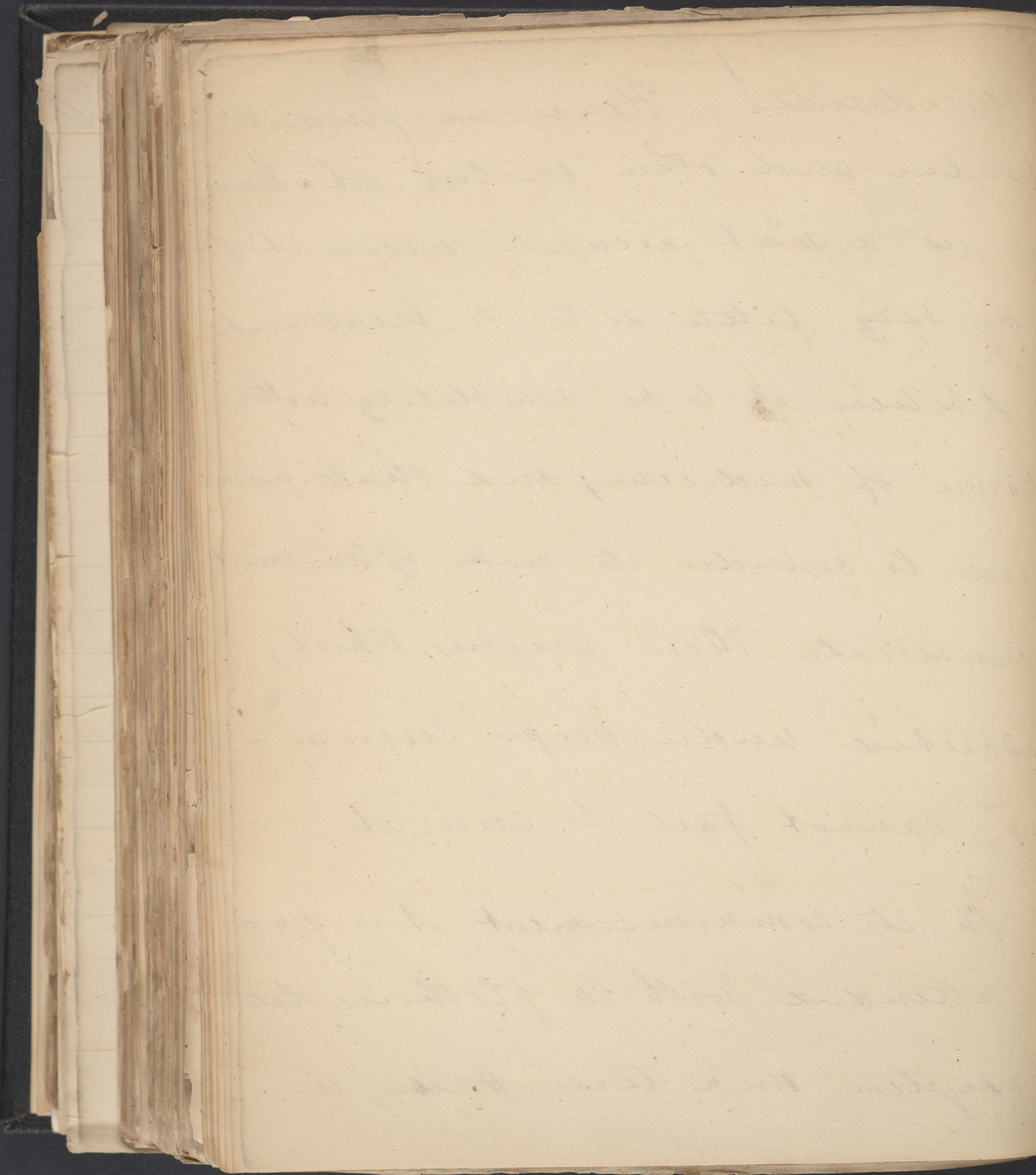
other diseases -

Some physicians have considered
this a dangerous and others an incurable



9th
able disease - Hence we find Dr
Gleberden and other writers, who have
given us a most accurate account of
it say very little as to its treatment.
But I believe it to be completely within
the power of medicine; and shall now
proceed to consider its mode of treatment,
and enumerate those remedies, which,
if prescribed under proper circum-
stances, cannot fail to cure it -

In its commencement, it is gen-
erally attended with a plethoric state
of the system and tense pulse, in



-10-

which case bleeding becomes necessary.

This is to be repeated as often as the
pulse and other symptoms may re-
quire - 2nd Purgis - There should be

a mild and lenient nature viz -

cream: Tart., Glauber's salts, or castor oil -

They are only intended ^{to} prevent consti-

tion - For here as in all other affections

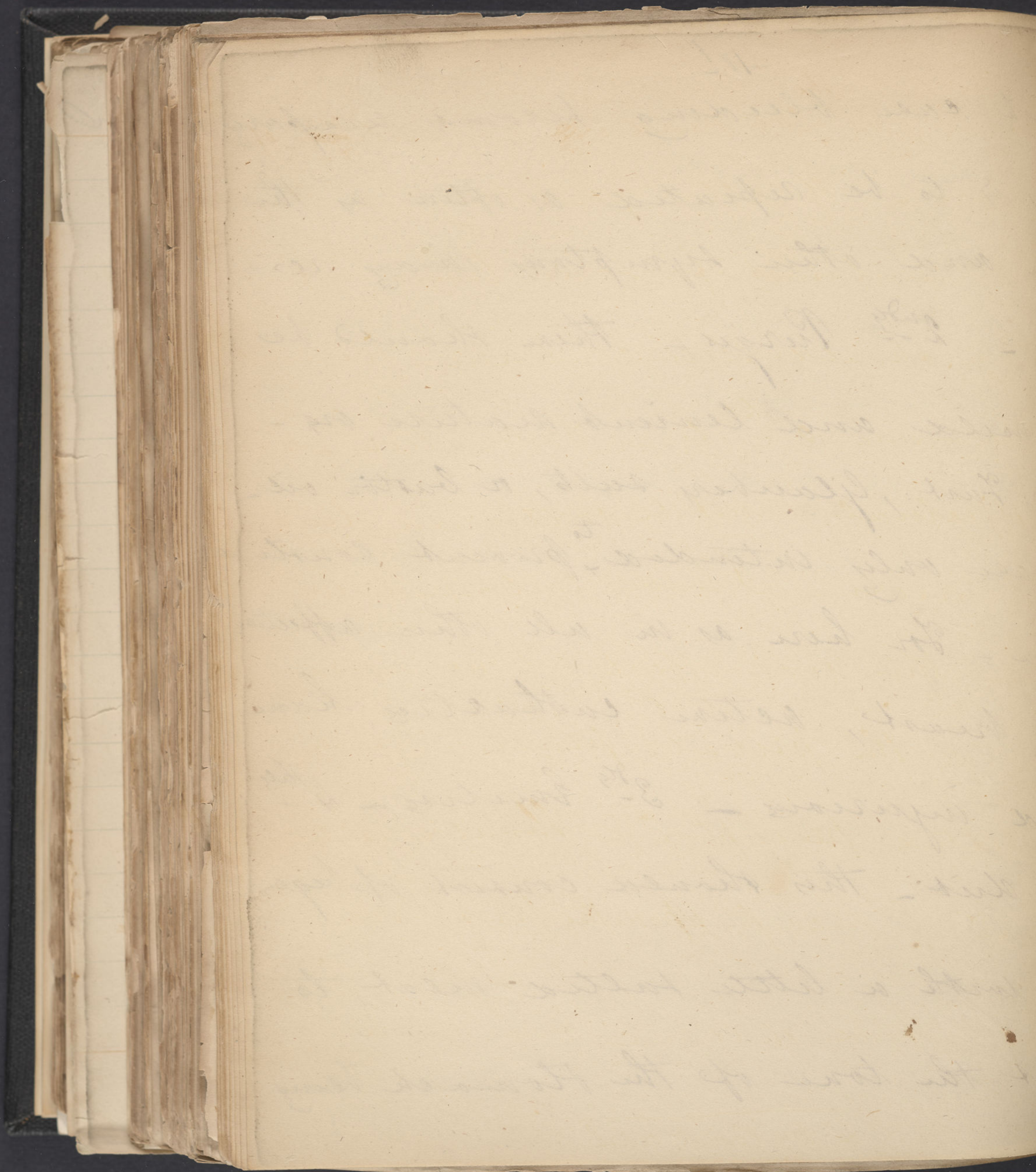
of the breast, active cathartics have

proved injurious - 3rd Emetics - 4th

Low diet - This should consist of beets

and turneps, with a little salted meat, to

prevent the tone of the stomach being



the
destroyed, by too suddenly abstracting ^{on} of
the food - If after persisting in this
mode of treatment for some time, the
symptoms should still continue - we must
have recourse ^{to this} to a Salivation, which
be effectual must be continued two
three weeks - I have witnessed with
nature the good effects of this noble
remedy in the private practice of my
respected preceptor* - Should it how-
ever fail of success upon the first trial,
we must not be deterred from making

* Dr Benj^r Rush

a second and even a third time ^{of it} - For
 I consider it as essentially necessary to salu-
 ate three or four times to cure this for-
 midable disease, as it is to bleed the same
 number of times to cure a common case
 of Pleurisy - By this, however, I do not
 mean to limit it even to that number, but
 recommend a repetition of it, as often as
 the urgency of the symptoms may require
 of this Tonic; of a most powerful nature
 aided by cordial diet - The tonics that
 have been found useful are - Tar, Garlic,
 Powder of Rosen - Nitrate of Silver, Sulphate
 of Zinc and preparations of Iron -

Arum has been highly recommended in
 the disease - Asafetida should also
 be employed, particularly where there is
 any affection of the nerves - ^{of the} Secretory
 such as the Digitalis, Squills and Spirits
 of Turpentine have been found serviceable
 of this Issues - Dr. MacBride speaks very highly
 of this remedy - He relates the case of a man
 affectedly cured by wearing two of them,
 one on each thigh - To all these remedies
 may be added, keeping the feet warm
 and accommodating the dress to the change
 in the weather -

Sam^l. H. Van Braken

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